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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

(Case No. MBHB00-873-I (500.011))

IN THE APPLICATION OF:)
)
Thompson et al.)
)
Serial No. 10/715,285) Examiner: TBA
)
Filed: November 17, 2003) Group Art Unit: 1635
)
Title Chemically Modified Double) Confirmation No.: 5200
Stranded Nucleic Acid Molecules)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In regard to the above identified application,

1. We are transmitting herewith the attached:
a) Preliminary Amendment; and
b) Return postcard
2. With respect to fees:
a) No fee is believed to be due.
3. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION: Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2490. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
4. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described in paragraph 1, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 29, 2005.

Date: July 29, 2005

By:

Anita J. Terpstra, Ph.D.
Registration No. 47,132



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks and respectfully request entry of the amendment prior to examination. It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this filing, however, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2490.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Conclusion is on page 5 of this paper.